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Tacoma

A Town Whose Time Has Come

outdoor sensations

By Rodica Woodbury

From lavender fields to candlelit terraces, the Northwest puts on a spectacular show for every outdoor occasion.



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believe it or not, summer in the great Northwest is just around the corner ... at least it is for planners working on next year's warm-weather events!

Summer is the perfect time to showcase our big views—the Puget Sound, the Olympics, the Cascades—to meeting guests from near and far. You can plan a convention picnic or barbecue in a shaded woodland park, an al fresco candlelight dinner reception in a rose garden, and a grand-finale corporate reception on a splendid terrace as the sun pours its amber light over a far horizon.

From British Columbia to Portland, from Puget Sound to the shores of Lake Coeur d'Alene, this corner of the world is both a natural and cultural wonderland. Our world-class cities—Vancouver, Victoria, Seattle, Tacoma, Portland, Spokane—showcase world-class museums, zoos, gardens, restaurants and convention centers that welcome meeting-goers in great numbers and with outstanding service facilities.

For the event and meeting planner, the Northwest offers a veritable banquet of venue choices at any time of year. And during the summer months especially, the choice to take the inside out is just too tempting to resist.

The following is a selection of wonderful outdoor venues sure to please every discerning client and guest. Each offers its own variety of splendid view or extraordinary setting, and each is unique to our very own special Northwest. Summertime here is in high demand ... so plan ahead!

ABOVE
**Bell Harbor
International
Conference
Center**

ARGOSY CRUISES

1101 Alaskan Way • Pier 55, Suite 201, Seattle
www.argosycruises.com
 Contact: Vanessa Nicholson, 206.623.1445,
 ext. 112

**Argosy Cruises**

In a region rich in maritime history, what better way to dazzle your guests than a cruise with ever-changing views? Seattle's Argosy Cruises has been an integral part of visiting the city for a decade, and its fleet wanders the scenic waterways from Elliott Bay to Lake Union, from Puget Sound to Lake Washington.

Argosy cruise vessels range in size and capacity, so whether you're planning a retirement party of 20 or a corporate gathering of 700, you'll be matched with the right-size ship and expert staff. Superb menus, beverages, entertainment and even themed events (casino, Caribbean and jazz cruises) are all part of what Argosy offers in its comprehensive packages.

THE WOODMARK HOTEL

1200 Carillon Point, Kirkland
www.thewoodmark.com



Contact: Alexis Hoff, 425.803.5564

The Woodmark Hotel

It's the only hotel on the graceful shores of Lake Washington, and it takes its Four Diamond and Four Star ratings very seriously, showcasing some of the finest accommodations, public spaces, and spa facilities in the greater Seattle area. Just across the lake from downtown and a few minutes from the high-tech urban triumvirate of Bellevue, Redmond and Bothell, the Woodmark offers an excellent location for your special event.

The Olympic Terrace was designed for seasonal outdoor gatherings. An elegant and carpeted canopied tent area, equipped with heaters and transparent side wall panels should the weather not oblige, is a refined space where 200 seated guests can enjoy the lake and mountain views. Whether it's a cocktail reception, wine tasting, candlelight dinner or meeting-luncheon, the hotel's expert staff and award-winning chefs will make the occasion memorable.

POINT DEFIANCE PARK & GARDENS

5400 N. Pearl, Tacoma
www.metroparkstacoma.org
 Contact: Linda Hilliard, 253./305.1003
 or 253/305-1010

With its acres of woodland and lush lawns sprawling between flower beds and lofty trees, the venerable park is a Tacoma favorite. Puget Sound wraps itself around the shores below Point Defiance, while Mount Rainier stands watch over the city and harbor in the background. The adjoining Point Defiance Zoo and Aquarium make for a delightful before-or-after field trip.

**Point Defiance Park & Gardens**

A couple of lovely park venues offer an oasis of tranquility and beauty, perfect for summer garden events. The Japanese Garden with its pagoda—a replica of a 17th century Japanese lodge—welcomes up to 200 guests. The much-photographed footbridge, water lily pools, waterfall and flowering shrubbery create a delightful ambience for mingling and quiet conversation.

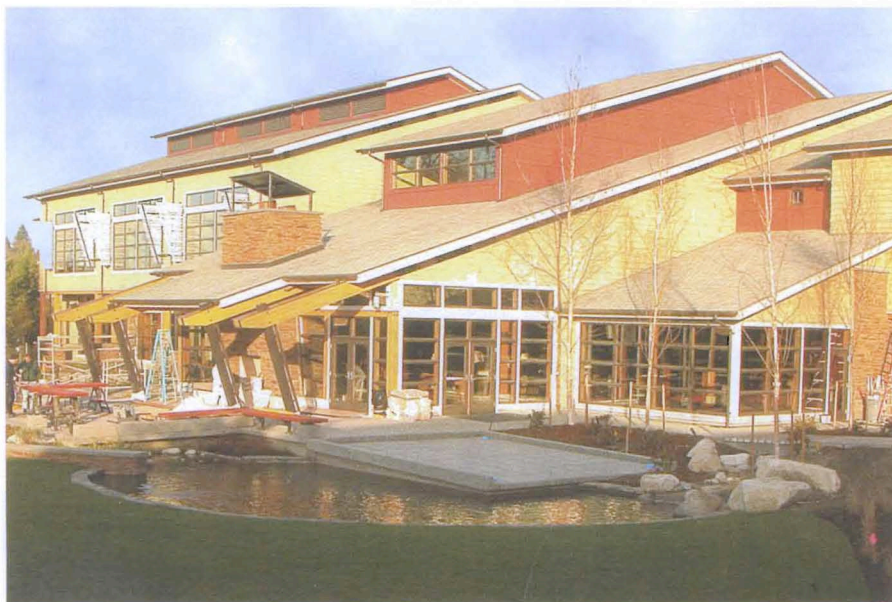
The Rose Garden in Point Defiance Park is a feast for the senses, with dozens of varieties in bloom throughout the summer months. Three distinct reception areas are available for rental: The Big Border with its large grassy area can accommodate 150 guests; the Gazebo, in the heart of the rose beds, holds 75; and, for small receptions (capacity 50), the Wishing Well presents a scenic backdrop in a sea of miniature rose bushes.

For all gardens, a list of preferred caterers is available upon request and liquor is allowed with a banquet permit.

CEDARBROOK

18525 36th Ave. S., SeaTac
www.cedarbrookcenter.com
 Contact: Roberta Meistrell, 206.214.4130

Located just a few minutes from Sea-Tac International Airport, the beautifully designed Washington Mutual Leadership Center at Cedarbrook spreads across 18 acres of restored natural wetlands. A network of trails runs through surrounding evergreen forest; and the airy and open architecture of the center, along with its bright colors and warm cherry and teak woods, create a quintessentially Northwest environment.



Cedarbrook

Inside the center, 30,000 square feet of meeting space is available with 17 individual suites and rooms that can accommodate from 20 to 400 guests. There is also a 120-seat auditorium with state-of-the-art visual and sound equipment. Several areas around the complex avail themselves to outdoor entertaining, with heaters and double-sided fireplaces ready to bring warmth to a cool breeze. From small, elegant dinners to a reception for several hundred, the center offers outstanding catering services and cuisine.

FROG ROCK LAVENDER

14414 Madison Ave. NE, Bainbridge
www.frogrocklavender.com
 Contact: Sheila Kent, 206.842.8761

Tucked away on the north end of Bainbridge Island, near scenic Port Madison, Frog Rock offers a delightfully unique setting for a special meeting or



Frog Rock Lavender

reception. Lead your attendees merrily down the garden paths among blooming annuals and perennials to a divinely fragrant lavender field. Five years ago, owner Sheila Kent took in an eyeful of scrub oak and blackberries and began the transformation into the color-splashed walkways that delight today's visitors.

Company picnics or luncheons, business dinners or cocktail receptions are all possible, and welcomed both day

and evening at Frog Rock. Planners can bring in tents and their caterer of choice. The Log House, built on the property, offers a kitchen and an indoor venue for receptions.

CHATEAU STE. MICHELLE

14111 NE 145th, Woodinville

www.ste-michelle.com

Contact: Doug Jones, 425.415.3684

This gracious, 87-acre chateau estate, the former home of Seattle lumber baron Frederick Stimson, is surrounded by shaded lawns and woodlands. Peacocks wave their colors at the public, who come daily to enjoy the tastings and the relaxing outdoor ambiance of a summer's day. The prestigious winery produces an array of vintages that consistently make the "top wines of the world" lists.

The Manor House on the grounds features a generous front porch for cocktails, and meticulous lawns where 100-150 guests can enjoy a sit-down affair (tenting permitted). On the estate's concert venue, a stage offers a perfect speaker's platform and the sweeping grassy area can accommodate up to 500 guests. This site can be rented and tented on off-concert days/evenings. The on-site staff caters all events.



Chateau Ste. Michelle

an indoor-outdoor combination in the top-story warehouse-style space can hold 1,000 reception-goers.

WOODLAND PARK ZOO

601 N. 59th St., Seattle

www.zoo.org

Contact: Stephanie Brindley, 206.233.7272



Woodland Park Zoo

Heralded as one of the country's top 10 zoos, Woodland Park with its 92 acres sets the highest standard with naturalistic animal and environmental habitats and unique exhibit venues. Nearly 1,150 animals representing 300 species of wildlife inhabit the park and 35 endangered and five threatened species find shelter here.

The park is also a botanical wonderland, boasting more than 7,000 trees and 50,000 shrubs. Baby Hansa, the Asian elephant born at the zoo two years ago, caused a major sensation among local visitors and the international press. Today she weighs in at one cuddly ton and still delights her fans. This year's two baby tigers are cause for wonder and celebration, and the extended orangutan family is worthy of hours of awesome observance.

Outdoor event venues abound at the zoo, from ceremonies in the beautiful Rose Garden and picnics at the shelter to corporate rallies for 5,000 in the North Meadow. Catering and event staff will take care of every detail, and you can even surprise your guests with special animal encounters, tours and activities. And, while your guests are having a grand time, a percentage of your venue fees and catering dollars goes right back into sustaining this remarkable zoo.

The Golf Event Specialists



Trophy Lake Golf & Casting

Port Orchard, WA

360.874.8337

trophylakegolfclub.com



Washington National Golf Club

Auburn, WA

253.333.5000

washingtonnationalgolfclub.com

As two of Washington's premier golf facilities, Washington National and Trophy Lake are uniquely qualified to assist you with planning and coordinating your golf outing or event. With careful attention to detail, we take pride in assisting you at every stage - from preliminary planning through smooth coordination and execution on the day of your event.

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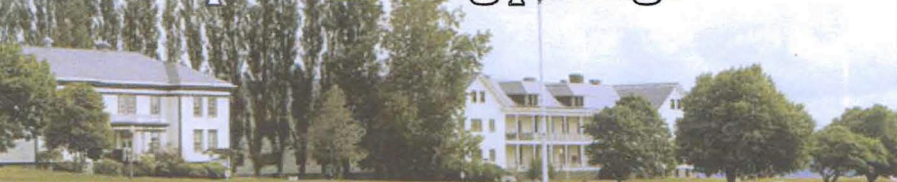
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W a s h i n g t o n S t a t e P a r k s

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www.fortworden.org/meetings

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